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(54) **DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS THAT SETTLE
BASED ON A VIRTUAL CURRENCY
DIFFICULTY FACTOR OR AN INDEX OF
VIRTUAL CURRENCY GENERATION YIELD**

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ABSTRACT

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The disclosed systems and methods make derivatives contracts based on an underlying virtual currency available for trading. Certain derivatives contracts have a settlement value based on the difficulty factor associated with generating the selected virtual currency. Other disclosed derivatives contracts have a settlement value based on the expected yield that a virtual currency miner can expect to generate using a particular computer configuration. The contracts can be used, for example, by virtual currency miners to hedge certain risks associated with mining virtual currency.

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